

NSC BRIEFING - *Morocco*

Prospects Dim for New Program of Resident General Lacoste

1. The New Resident General:

- A. Arrival French Morocco 14 June newly appointed Resident General Francis Lacoste opens new but difficult chapter French-Moroccan relations.
- B. Inherits bitter legacy of hate and distrust left by two military predecessors.
- C. His replacement General Guillaume 20 May is attempt by Paris re-establish order and French-Moroccan co-operation after 9 months' anti-French terrorism.
- D. Lacoste able career diplomat; long, wide experience, including Morocco. Served as number two man French Residency 1947-1950 under Marshal Juin.
- E. Lacoste staunch advocate French presence Morocco, but 'believed personally to favor more moderate policy. Intelligence reports indicate he intends policy "iron hand in silken glove."

II Lacoste's Program:

A. Lacoste program not yet fully delineated, but high French

Foreign Ministry official outlines following:

1. General lines long-term program to be announced near future, but without specifying time factor or final Moroccan-French relationship.
2. Emphasis on Moroccan sovereignty and fact that reforms last August only one step final goal.
3. French participation local government will decrease as Moroccans show capacity greater responsibility.
4. No spectacular developments regarding change sultan anticipated near future. Much-mentioned possibility replacement present sultan, Moulay Arafa, with second son ex-sultan, though would please some, would also create new problems.

B. Lacoste recently conferred some elements Moroccan nationalists he invited Paris. Also reportedly drafted proposal granting clemency national-ist political detainees.

III Prospects:

A. Lacoste program as outlined does not indicate new, bold

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policy and unlikely to promote real settlement.

1. Too vague--no specific concessions yet indicated
2. Does not intend specify final Moroccan-French relationship or time factor--both primary nationalist objectives.
3. Issue French participation ;Moroccan government--immediate cause ouster former sultan--will continue as major stumbling bloc to both nationalists and French settlers.

B. Local reaction Lacoste program provokes bitter opposition both sides:

1. French veterans organization Casablanca distributed 50,000 leaflets condemning Lacoste's alleged instructions to release and negotiate nationalists as "criminal and treasonable."
2. On 12 June offices of veterans organization wrecked by bombs.
3. El Glaoui, staunchly anti-nationalist Pasha Marrakech

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- principal native engineer sultan's deposition -
states that friends of France in Morocco will give
Lacoste confidence if he does not bargain on
clemency.

4. Report received 15 June indicate nationalists are
implementing threat of crop burning, - burned 115
acres grain this past week.

C. American observers Morocco convinced drastic measures
required if situation to be restored; agree minimum
necessary -

1. Replacement sultan by someone acceptable Moroccan
people.
2. Release nationalist political prisoners, as no
others command respect Moroccan masses.
3. Direct contact with established nationalist leaders.

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